

INGERSLY, C.M.

Valentines. Ilford E. ✓

Augt. 3. 1868.

My dear Sir.

According to my promise I send you a copy of my Tractate - "Was Thomas Lodge a player?" This was my first - probably, of its kind, the first - contribution to this current Annus Mirabilis. It has been a constantly recurring source of amusement to read the critiques of good-natured unsuspecting correspondents, to whom I had presented copies of this monograph, who evidently had read a few pages of it, & closed it without having discovered that it reflected on private character - I think that is the phrase in vogue. Among others of the like bearing I had a long letter from my old friend Mr. D. Hick (the Commissioner of Bpt.) criticizing the general question of "the Disrepute of the Drama" - but making it quite plain that he had not so much as seen the fac-simile. Of those correspondents who did discover the personal bearing & the fac-simile, some took the view that evidently Collier had used some other copy of the Memorial: Alexander Dyce allowed I was grieved at Mr. Collier's inaccuracy: but I am bound to say the majority admitted that I had proved my case & of these not a few were men whom the Bridgwater & Dulwich forgeries had failed to generate the slightest doubt of Collier's good faith.

The suspected page of the later book of the Revels - is a most astonishing piece of cleverness. One of the reasons why I troubled you (thru Hamilton) on the matter before was that the three entries of plays by Shakespeare not bearing the name of



"Shrubberd" - presented internal evidences of genuineness. I need not trouble you with these if you are satisfied, on palaeographic grounds that the page in question is a forgery. As to the three pages in the earlier book, the marginal notes (alone) w^{ch} have made me suspect that they were written by the same hand as the Maynwaringe forgery at Bonywater House.

I am my dear son -
Yours very truly
E. M. Ingleby.

P.S. Knibb sent me a copy of the entry in the earlier book - which Peter Cunningham omitted from his volume.

D. Duffus Hardy Jr

